Wood based Industries

3092. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received application from various wood based industries seeking permission to transfer of license and plant and machinery from other States and Union Territories to the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, how many applications have been received so far;

(c) by when these applications are likely to be cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) One application has been received from M/s Kitply Industries Ltd., seeking transfer of Licence, plant and machinery of wood based industry in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Nagpur in Maharashtra. Simultaneously, the industry has also approached the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) through application No. 722 seeking permission for the relocation of its unit.

(c) and (d) While submitting its comments on this application, Government of Maharashtra has communicated *vide* letter dated 11.8.2006 to Central Empowered Committee (CEC) that it would not be possible at present for the state to consider the request of the applicant to shift their existing unit from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Nagpur in Maharashtra. Permitting this relocation would amount granting of new license as this industry is presently located outside the state of Maharashtra. And the state will not favourably consider the grant of new license to wood based industries in Maharashtra till the timber availability is reassessed and it is established that surplus timber is available in the State as decided in the meeting of CEC on 20.6.2006. The issue is now to be decided by CEC on the basis of State of Maharashtra's report dated 11.8.2006

Rehabilitation of Encroachers

†3093. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the proposals were sent to the Central Government for the rehabilitation of people occupying forest lands in an unauthorised manner during the last five years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of occupants recommended for rehabilitation in the proposals sent to Goverment; and

(c) the action taken by Government during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) During last five years (01.08.2001 to 31.07.2006) one proposal for regularization of encroachment over 952.43 hectares of forest land, involving settlement of 1066 encroachers was received from State Government of Maharashtra. The proposal was returned back to the State Government due to the discrepancy in the forest area proposed for regularization in respect of Gadhchiroli District of Maharashtra. Three proposals for settlement of 12,225 post 1978 encroachers of forest land on 3,631.64 hectares of deemed forest land was received from Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, since the Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 07.05.2002 in I.A. No. 502 of 1999 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has prohibited regularization of encroachment on forest land and has also imposed a ban on felling of naturally grown trees, the above proposal was not considered.

Rehabilitation of tribals on forest land

†3094. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:
SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals were sent to rehabilitate tribals and persons of scheduled tribes on the forest land of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) by when the rehabilitation process would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) 68 proposals for regularization of encroachments on forest land were received from Government of Madhya Pradesh for approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conversation) Act, 1980. 40 proposals involving 224,874.792 ha. of forest land have been approved, 27 proposals have been closed for want of necessary information and one proposal has been rejected.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.